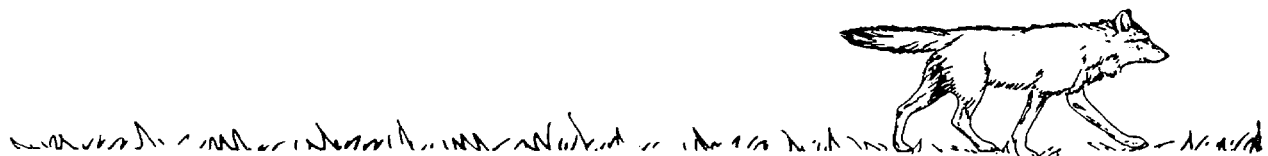


CHAPTER 2

Areawide Land & Water Management Policies

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CHAPTER 2

Areawide Land & Water Management Policies

INTRODUCTION

Summary

This chapter includes goals, management intent, management guidelines, and proposed regulations that apply to state lands in the Recreation Rivers. The policies in this chapter consist of goals and management guidelines. Goals are the general conditions the department is trying to achieve and guidelines are specific directions that will be applied to land and water management decisions as resource use and development occur. For management intent on borough lands, contact the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Definitions

Throughout the plan, the terms *Recreation River*, *rivers*, and *corridors* are used. Recreation Rivers includes all land and water (including the uplands, shorelands, and water columns) designated under the Recreation Rivers Act (AS 41.23.500(1-6). *River(s)* includes the water column designated under the act. *River corridor(s)* or *corridor(s)* includes the uplands designated under the act. *Uplands* are defined as lands above ordinary high water. *Shorelands* include land belonging to the state that is covered by navigable water up to the ordinary high water mark. For further definitions see the glossary in Appendix A.

GOALS

The Recreation Rivers Act states that the primary purpose for the establishment of the six Recreation Rivers is the maintenance and enhancement of the land and water for recreation. The act states that the primary purpose for the management of the six Recreation Rivers is for a variety of resources and uses including fish and wildlife, recreation, economic use, the enjoyment of the public, multiple use of the uplands, and the accommodation of access.

To meet these goals, state land and water in the Recreation Rivers will be managed for¹:

¹ The order of the goals listed throughout this chapter are not listed in order of priority.

Public Ownership. Retain the Recreation Rivers in public ownership for public use.

Recreation. Maintain and enhance the Recreation Rivers for recreation.

Fish and Wildlife. Manage, protect, and maintain the fish and wildlife populations and habitat on a sustained-yield basis.

Public Use. Protect and enhance public use and enjoyment of the Recreation Rivers, including ensuring the availability of public use sites to meet the needs of all users.

Economic Use. Allow continued economic uses.

Mitigation Measures. Manage upland activities for multiple use within the Recreation Rivers using mitigation measures to alleviate potential adverse effects on water quality and stream flow.

Access. Accommodate access for resource uses including recreation and tourism within or adjacent to the Recreation Rivers.

Spectrum of Opportunities. Provide for a spectrum of recreation opportunities on the six Recreation Rivers.

Specific Opportunities. Provide specific recreation opportunities on individual rivers, river segments, units, subunits, and public use sites.

Monitoring. Monitor conditions to ensure that the desired recreation opportunities are maintained through time.

Education. Promote public understanding and appreciation of the resource and public values.

Management. Formulate policies and specific guidelines for short- and long-term management.

MANAGEMENT INTENT

The goals listed above will be met by managing state land through management intent statements. Management intent describes the future condition that is desired. Three general classes of management intent were developed to provide diverse recreation opportunities to satisfy the public's varying preferences. The class assigned to each area is similar to current use patterns. Management intent classes range along a recreation opportunity spectrum that includes Class I, Class II, and Class III areas: Class I areas provide primitive

recreation opportunities; Class II areas provide semi-primitive recreation opportunities; Class III areas provide recreational opportunities in a more developed setting. Management decisions on whether proposed land uses are compatible and which guidelines apply will be based on these general management intent statements, guidelines, and specific management intent for the subunit. The management intent class for each subunit is shown in Map 2.1 on the following page and described in Table 3.1 in Chapter 3.

PROPOSED REGULATIONS

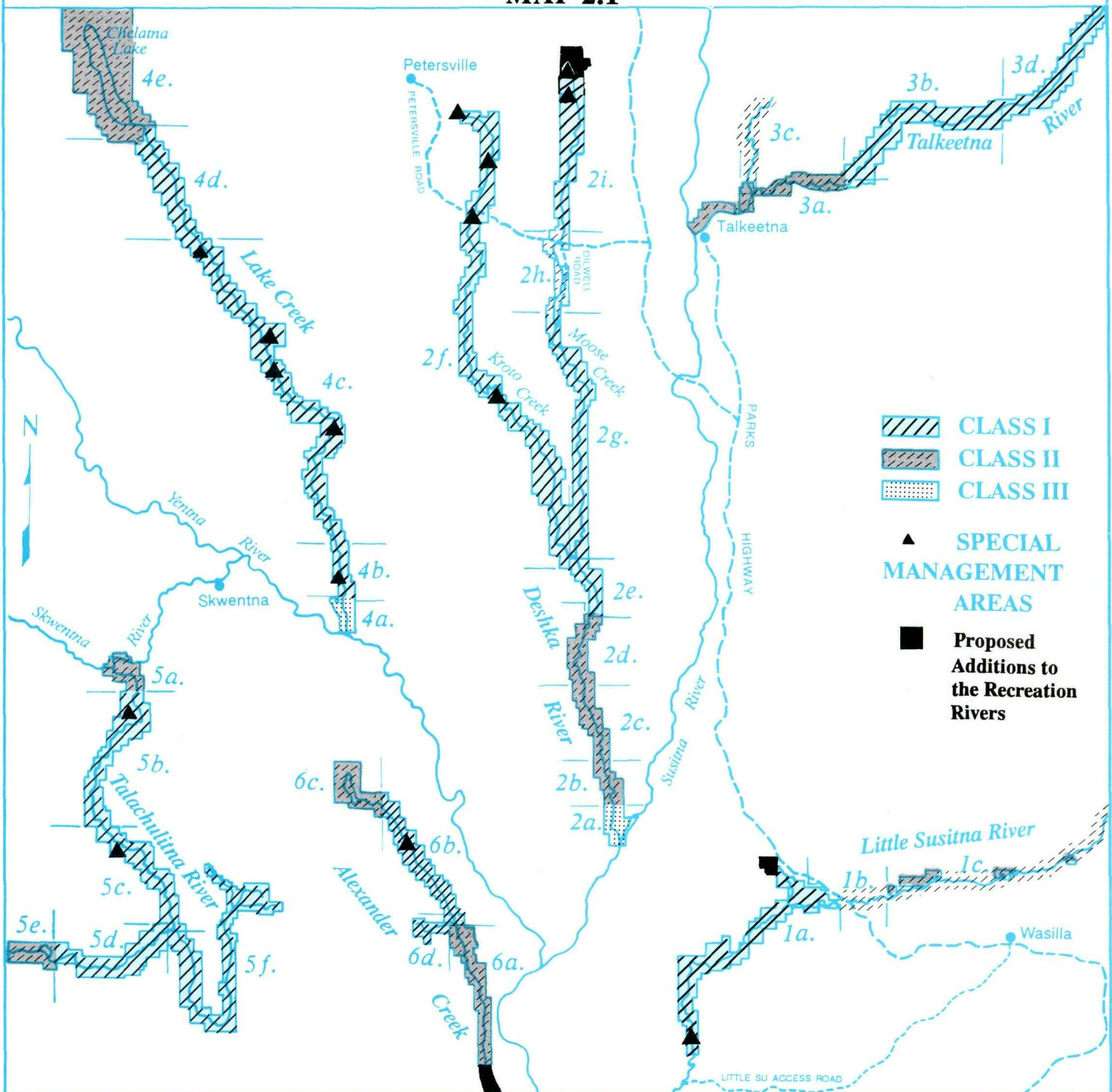
New regulations are necessary to implement the policies and guidelines in the plan. Proposed regulations are described in this chapter. In the Recreation Rivers Act, AS 41.23.440(c) states that, "The commissioner shall adopt regulations necessary to implement the management plan." Most regulations proposed apply to recreational use, including recreation-related commercial use. All regulations, whether or not specifically indicated, apply only to state land and water in the Recreation Rivers. Under AS 41.23.440(b) in the Recreation Rivers Act, DNR may not adopt

regulations until the management plan takes effect. Proposed new statutory authorities needed to enforce these regulations are listed in Chapter 4.

Two new types of permits are proposed to implement the plan. The first is the Commercial-use Permit which is described in Chapter 2 (See *Commercial*). The other is the Recreation Rivers Special Use Permit which covers all activities listed in the plan that require a permit but are not covered under existing DNR or other agency permits.

SUSITNA BASIN RECREATION RIVERS MANAGEMENT PLAN MANAGEMENT INTENT FOR SUBUNITS

MAP 2.1



MANAGEMENT UNITS & SUBUNITS

1. Little Susitna River

- 1a. Lower Little Susitna River
- 1b. Middle Little Susitna River
- 1c. Upper Little Susitna River

2. Deshka River

- 2a. Mouth Of Deshka River
- 2b. Lower Deshka River
- 2c. Middle Deshka River
- 2d. Neil Lake
- 2e. The Forks
- 2f. Kroto Creek
- 2g. Lower Moose Creek
- 2h. Oilwell Road
- 2i. Upper Moose Creek

3. Talkeetna River

- 3a. Lower Talkeetna River
- 3b. Middle Talkeetna River
- 3c. Clear (Chunilna) Creek
- 3d. Talkeetna Canyon

4. Lake Creek

- 4a. Lake Creek Mouth
- 4b. Lower Lake Creek
- 4c. Middle Lake Creek
- 4d. Upper Lake Creek
- 4e. Chelamna Lake

5. Talachulitna River

- 5a. Mouth Of Talachulitna River
- 5b. Talachulitna River Canyon
- 5c. Middle Talachulitna River
- 5d. Talachulitna Creek
- 5e. Judd Lake
- 5f. Upper Talachulitna River

6. Alexander Creek

- 6a. Lower Alexander Creek
- 6b. Upper Alexander Creek
- 6c. Alexander Lake
- 6d. Sucker Creek